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PR-O-9139

20 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, ORR

SUBJECT: Situation Reports

REFERENCES: (a) Your memorandum of 17 February 1950.

(b) COAPS memorandum to the Director, 15 February 1950.

(c) Letters from Army and State, 10 February 1950

1. In accordance with its letter of 10 February 1950, the Army member of the IAC did bring up for discussion the discontinuance of Situation Reports. He referred to it as a little MIS Program which was too time consuming for the usefulness derived from these reports, and since he did not wish to contribute towards them, he wished to have the whole program discontinued. The Director advised the IAC members that it was presumptuous of them to determine, or try to determine, what CIA wants to do, which it can do by itself if the others don't want to assist. State admits that it is time consuming but wants to finish what is well along, and is willing to go along with the ones mentioned in paragraph 1 of your memorandum of 17 February.

2. They then discussed the JCS' reason for priorities and thought that since they were established two years ago they might well be changed now. Furthermore, they have indication in the Defense Establishment that the JCS is making drastic changes in the priority list, although we have as yet received no answer to our December 1st letter to them on this subject. Apparently the Satellites are going to be moved up near the top of the list.

3. If this is the case, then we might well drop the Situation Reports on the Satellites and devote that time and attention to MIS reports on these countries. That was the only determination reached at Friday's meeting on this subject.

4. It is hoped that in the very near future we shall receive the new priority list from the JCS and can then finish the pertinent Situation Reports mentioned in your paragraph 1 on 17 February, and drop those that may be replaced by high priority MIS reports.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief,
Coordination, Operations,

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